

29 August 1999

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The Marshall Center
Unit 24502, Box 100
APO AE 09053

Donna Shalala, Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am a civil servant living in Germany, where I am relieved to see the Europeans defending their food from unnecessary and potentially dangerous tinkering. I am writing to express my deep concern about the possible weakening of labeling requirements for irradiated food that is now being considered by the Food and Drug Administration. I strongly believe that it is my right to know if the food I eat has been treated with radiation.

It has been established that food products undergo chemical changes after exposure to radioactive isotopes. These cosmetic and nutritional changes in foods warrant disclosure on a prominent place on the package. In addition, food that is not packaged should be accompanied by a poster in plain view of where it is displayed for sale. Labels are required by law to be truthful and not misleading to the customer. Only clear, honest and permanent labeling is acceptable for irradiated foods.

I hope that you will defend the consumer's right to know in this important decision-making process. Please do not let the commercial interests of the food and nuclear industries compromise our freedom of choice!!

Sincerely,



Jean Callaghan

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